

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 38 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 - 38 are rejected.

The Office Action of September 10, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Allowance of the application and claims is respectfully requested in view of the following discussion.

Claim Rejections Under §102

In section 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11, 13-15, 18-20, 22-24, 27-31, 33-34, 36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *Muthuswamy et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,853,368, hereafter referred to as *Muthuswamy*).

Muthuswamy discloses a user interface arranged to assist a user to enter a command for operating the wireless telephone 100 by detecting a subset of a set of keystrokes required to execute the command (col. 5, lines 61-67). A command is embodied in a set of keystrokes (col. 6, lines 1-2).

In *Muthuswamy*, some commands may be arranged in a hierarchical menu in which all topically related commands are grouped together in a sub-menu of the hierarchical menu (col. 6, lines 8-11).

To enter a command, the user navigates to a particular submenu of the hierarchical menu and selects lower level submenus (col. 6, lines 13-15).

Here, *Muthuswamy* teaches and discloses entry of a command wherein the user reiteratively selects lower level submenus in a hierarchical menu to get to the command the user desires. *Muthuswamy* does not teach, disclose or suggest “circuitry configured and arranged for hinting one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities available in said selected operation functionality such that said hinted one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities is communicated via a suitable alerting mechanism”, as required in the independent claims of the present invention. A user in *Muthuswamy* navigates the submenus in a “hit or miss” fashion until he/she stumbles upon the command desired. There is no hinting guidance in *Muthuswamy* provided to the user.

In *Muthuswamy*, some commands are entered by pressing a sequence of keys and at any given point prior to the completion of the sequence, at least one or more of a limited set of keys can be pressed to continue entering a syntactically correct command (col. 6, lines 19-23).

At any point within the sequence, pressing a particular key that is part of the limited set of possible (syntactically correct) next keys, specifies a more precise command that is being entered (col. 6, lines 24-27). This is nothing more than an auto-fill, read-ahead feature. In *Muthuswamy*, the user must know the syntactically correct spelling of the command to arrive at the command. If a syntactically incorrect key is pressed (not a key in the subset of a set of keystrokes), nothing happens and the user is left to guess at what the next key is in the subset of a set of keystrokes.

So here, *Muthuswamy* teaches and discloses entry of one or more syntactically correct keys in a limited set of keys in a set of keystrokes defining the command.

Muthuswamy does not teach, disclose or suggest “circuitry configured and arranged for hinting one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities available in said selected operational functionality such that said hinted one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities is communicated via a suitable alerting mechanism.” A user in *Muthuswamy* enters keys in a “hit or miss” fashion until he/she stumbles upon the syntactically correct sequence in the limited set of keys with each key entry filling out a word having the leading sequence of keys pressed by the user. There is no hinting guidance in *Muthuswamy* provided to the user.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

In section 3, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 10, 12, 21, 25-26, 32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Muthuswamy*. Claims 10, 12, 21, 25-26, 32 and 35 ultimately depend from independent claims 1, 18, and 28, and are not disclosed or suggested by *Muthuswamy* for at least the reasons above.

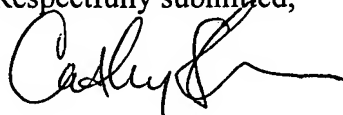
In section 4, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 16-17 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Muthuswamy* in view of *Myr* (U.S. Appl. Publ. No. 2001/0029425). Combining the teachings of *Muthuswamy* with the teachings of *Myr*, even if such a combination could be made, does not overcome the fundamental deficiencies of

Muthuswamy and the rejection of claims 16-17 and 37 should be withdrawn at least due to the dependency of claims 16-17 and 37.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all the claims of the application are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit such action at an early date. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' agent if any questions remain following review of this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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